



THE METEOR

Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara
Harris-Lass House Museum

Early Summer Edition – June 2024



Antiques Appraisal Luncheon

Join us for a summertime luncheon in the museum gardens and enjoy appraisals by a local team of experts.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, July 18th, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and appraisals will begin at 12 noon. Guests will be served a box lunch with a cold drink. *(see order form on back page of this newsletter)*



Guests may bring **one** item to be appraised by local experts familiar with antiques and collectibles. Bring your favorite antique, collectible, keepsake, or family treasure!

The cost is \$40 per ticket and only 50 tickets will be sold. HPSSC members can buy up to two advance tickets starting June 3rd and tickets go on sale to the general public on June 17th at which time members may purchase additional tickets. Reservations will be accepted until July 8th, or until 50 tickets are sold.

For more information call Alma at 1-408-309-6954, see our web site www.harrislass.org, or email info@harrislass.org

Harris Lass Museum: Speaker on the Lawn Series 2024

Bring your own picnic lunch and enjoy the lovely garden of the Harris Lass Museum. Cookies and bottled water will be available. These events are free.

- **Sunday, June 9, 2024, Noon to 2 p.m.**

Topic: Remembering Clarence Robert “Bob” Tower: Local Historian, Author, Artist, Harris Lass Benefactor, & Santa Clara Community Treasure

(See article on page 2)

- **Sunday, August 11, 2024, Noon to 2 p.m.**

Topic: Santa Clara Police Department’s Community Engagement Program

(See article on page 2)

Two events for the Speaker on the Lawn Series 2024

- **Sunday, June 9, 2024, Noon to 2 p.m.**
Topic: Remembering Clarence Robert “Bob” Tower: Local Historian, Author, Artist, Harris Lass Benefactor, Santa Clara Community Treasure

This past March, in his mid-90s, Clarence Robert “Bob” Tower passed away. He was a nearly life-long resident of Santa Clara and made significant contributions to the community as a local historian, author, artist, and contributor to many community organizations. He also donated artwork, and designed bookmarks and stationery for the Harris Lass Tank House Gift Shop. His career in engineering allowed him to observe the transformation of Santa Clara from an agricultural to a high-tech based economy.



To ‘Celebrate His Life’ and remember his many contributions to the Santa Clara community, Harris Lass Board members Mary Hanel and Alma Guillot will reveal biographical stories about his life, book talk some of the local history titles he wrote, and display some of his artwork.

Anyone who wants to know about some great local history books to read or who was a friend or admirer of Bob Tower is welcome.

- **Sunday, August 11, 2024, Noon to 2 p.m.**
Topic: Santa Clara Police Department’s Community Engagement Program

Kari Rogers, a Santa Clara Police Officer will talk about her involvement as a team member of the Police Department’s Community Engagement Program (CEP). A crime prevention program, the CEP enlists the participation of residents, in cooperation with law enforcement, to reduce crime in the neighborhoods. Learn about some of the crime prevention techniques that this program teaches residents, ask questions about how the program works and how interested residents can get involved.

Campbell Historical Museum Docents Tour Harris Lass Museum

One of the perks of being a docent at the Harris Lass Museum is that you get to meet docents from some of the other Bay Area Historical House Museums and the docents sometimes arrange to tour each other’s museums. On April 18, 2024, Harris Lass Board members Mary Hanel, Sue Kozdon, and Mary Ann Marinshaw got to host a group tour of the Harris Lass Museum for the director and docents of the Ainsley House and Campbell Historical Museum. It was a fun visit and exchange of ideas. The Harris Lass docents now have an open invitation to arrange for a tour of the Ainsley House and the Historical Museum in Campbell!

May Open House

The Harris Lass Museum Open House took place as scheduled from Noon to 3 p.m. on May 4, 2024. Unfortunately, it exactly corresponded with the only day and hours of heavy rain in the whole month of May! The bad news is that it drastically cut down on the number of visitors to the Museum – particularly in the case of families with young children. We did, however, host about twenty hardy visitors who braved the rainstorm including a young boy and his dad who participated in every craft event offered by the Museum! A couple from Hollister who are attempting to visit every Museum in the Bay Area Historic House Museums booklet enjoyed touring the Museum, a couple that had once lived in a ranch house in Mexico loved seeing the Museum as its architectural features and furniture reminded them of their ranch house. A fellow who was an expert on historical sewing machines enjoyed examining our 1858 Grover & Baker sewing machine in Grandma Julia's room. All these folks also enjoyed seeing the special exhibits on Lass family "Games, Hobbies, and Pastimes" in the various rooms which had been carefully and beautifully curated by Sue Harper and Carol Lucero.



Best of all, Ron Stevens from Santa Cruz and DeLayne Streeter of Modesto, Captain Lass's great-great grandchildren both came. Ron brought and donated some additional artifacts to the Museum including a cribbage board constructed by his great-granduncle Ori, plus one of Captain Lass' shipboard barometers, and a gin 'pick-me-up' drink recipe that was a favorite of his great-grandmother Julia. DeLayne brought her husband Verne's relatives who were excited to be seeing the house they heard so much about for the first time.

One of those in-law relatives, in fact, spotted raindrops leaking in from the roof of the sunporch and dripping onto the mattress of the seagrass

lounge divan. The family and Ron helped us dry off the mattress and move the lounge away from the leak. Ron noted that where we moved it to was actually where it was positioned when he visited as a child. The docents and family agreed that, in a sense, it was fortunate that the Open House was being held on the day of the rainstorm so that we became aware of the leak and rescued the horsehair mattress on the lounge from serious water or mold damage. Since then, the City's Building Maintenance Department has been by to inspect the Sun Porch and work on repairing the source of the leak.

Ladies Tea Party Fundraiser at Headen-Inman House Museum

The Harris Lass Museum is an organizational member affiliated with the Santa Clara Arts & Historic Consortium, so we wish to support SCA&HC's upcoming fundraiser. This will be a "Ladies Tea Party" and will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2024, starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Headen-Inman House Museum at 1509 Warburton Avenue (at Don Ave. and near the Triton Museum) in Santa Clara.

You must bring your own teacup and saucer, but you will be served the tea, and provided with English finger sandwiches, scones and a mini-tea hat. Tea party games and door prizes are also part of the fun. To attend, send in a check for \$25 made payable to SCA& HC no later than July 13 to: SCA&HC, c/o Evalyn, 725 Broadway, Turlock, CA 95380. Include your name address, phone & email. Pick up your ticket at the door. For more information, email Evalyn at emartinzo7@aol.com.

Membership Appreciation Event

On Sunday afternoon, April 21st the Harris Lass Museum Board hosted a membership appreciation event at the Harris Lass Museum. It was a beautiful day and those that attended enjoyed refreshments and reports from the Board on improvements made to the property by the City, information on upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities and the chance to win a ticket to this December's Santa Clara Historic Home Tour. The lucky winner of the Home Tour ticket was Greg Peacock!



Leo Plante

In addition, three special guests attended the event: Leo Plante from Livermore, Ron Stevens from Santa Cruz, and DeLayne Streeter from Modesto.

A few years ago, Leo Plante built a miniature scale model of the Harris Lass House and Summer Kitchen using over 2,400 wine bottle corks, a project that took over three years to complete. The models are on display in the classroom section of the Harris Lass Barn. Leo continues to be proud of his work on the project and was pleased to see that we are still displaying the models he gifted to the Museum during the time when Bob Byrd was serving at the President of the Museum Board.

Ron Stevens and DeLayne Streeter are the great-great grandchildren of Captain Christian Lass and the grandchildren of the Captain's oldest granddaughter, Carolina Lass Bull. They spent considerable time at the house as children with their mother Betty Bull Stevens and have fond memories of the property. During the membership appreciation event, home movies made by their great-grand Uncle Ori were showing in the barn and Ron was able to identify many Lass family members seen in the movies.

News Note

At the Santa Clara City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at about 7:30 p.m. Janet Stevenson, Chair of the Santa Clara Historic Home Tour Committee will be presenting a check derived from profits of the 2023 Santa Clara Historic Home Tour to Harris Lass Museum Board President Susan Kozdon for use towards upcoming restoration projects in the Harris Lass House Museum.

Other non-profits involved in Santa Clara historic preservation projects will also be awarded checks.

Thank you to all who made the 2023 Tour such a success.



DeLayne Streeter & Ron Stevens

HLC Banner Project on El Camino Real

Perhaps some of our members noticed the colorful and whimsical banners of historic buildings in Santa Clara that were displayed on El Camino Real during April and May 2024. One of the banners (on El Camino near Scott Blvd.) was of the Harris Lass House Museum.

In honor of National Preservation Month May 2024, the City's Historical and Landmarks Commission (HLC) enlisted artist Cameryn Baker to design and create these banners. Cameryn is an artist and creative based in San Francisco. Native to Los Angeles County, she graduated from the University of Southern California in 2022. She has worked in a handful of unexpected places including film sets in Los Angeles and on Alcatraz Island. The Harris Lass Museum Board is grateful that HLC wished to include a Harris Lass banner in the project and that Cameryn created such a charming banner to represent our Museum.

Board of Directors

President: Sue Kozdon

Vice-President: Jeannie Mahan

Secretary: Caren Ratermann

Treasurer: Mary Ann Marinshaw

Joan Cabral

Alma Guillot

Mary Hanel

Sue Harper

Maria Lopes

Carole Smith

The Meteor newsletter is published several times a year by the HPSSC.

To see the full-color edition, view on the web at www.harrislass.org or request an emailed copy.

Meteor Staff members:

Mary Hanel, editor;

Sue Kozdon, layout editor.

The Harris-Lass Museum is located at 1889 Market St. (at Winchester) in Santa Clara.

The mailing address is

HPSSC,

P.O. Box 3311,

Santa Clara, CA 95055

☎ 1 408 249-7905

Harris Lass Museum Banner



Museum is generally open 1st Saturdays of month, Noon-2p.m.

You may also want to check the Museum's website at:

<https://www.harrislass.org/> for the most up-to-date information on events & opening hours.

We are also on Facebook.

Please email: info@harrislass.org if you have questions or would like to arrange for a private group tour.



**Harris Lass House
Museum**

**18th Antiques Appraisal
Luncheon**

**Thursday, July 18th, 2024
11:00am to 2:30pm**

Early Bird Tickets available to members of the Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara (HPSSC) **Starting June 3rd, 2024**. Tickets will be opened to the public starting **June 17th**.

Please reserve ____ (one or two) **Early Bird Tickets** for the Antiques Appraisal Luncheon. I have enclosed a check for \$ _____ (\$40.00 or \$80.00) made payable to the HPSSC and a **self-addressed stamped envelope** so I can receive my tickets in the mail.

Please CIRCLE your lunch choice - all lunches come with soda or water

DELI ROAST BEEF SANDWICH

1/2 pint of deli salad,
chips, & a cookie

SALAD BOX

CEASEAR SALAD, (pre-dressed), a roll & fresh fruit

GRILLED CHHICKEN PANINI, 1/2 pint of deli salad, chips,

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please mail this form with a check made out to HPSSC and self-addressed stamped envelope to:
Harris-Lass Appraisal Luncheon, HPSSC, PO Box 3311, Santa Clara CA 95051-3311